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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8459
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEAHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RUEBBEA/DEPTTRANS WASHDC
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUDGUSC/USCUSTOMSSVC WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 000959

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

WHA/CAR, EEB/TRA/OTP FOR DORIS HAYWOOD, PM/ISO FOR JEFF
FREDERICK
STATE PLEASE PASS OSD FOR DAVID GRUBER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL PGOV EWWT EAID ECIN ECON EFIS MARR MASS
MCAP, MOPS, PHSA, PINS, SMIT, SENV, SNAR, ASEC, HA
SUBJECT: GLOBAL MARITIME PARTNERSHIPS - HAITI NEEDS MORE
TIME

REF: 50488

Summary:

¶1. (SBU) The Government of Haiti requires additional
engagement with the Embassy before it can understand the
benefits of the Global Maritime Partnership Initiative (GMP).
 The GOH has consented to future meetings with Embassy
officials on the issue. Embassy will make clear GMP linkages
to previous and future planned activities with the Haitian
Coast Guard and Port and Customs authorities. End Summary.

Haiti: Unclear on Support

¶2. (SBU) Econoff discussed May 23 and June 16 the Global
Maritime Partnership Initiative (GMP) with Ministry of
Foreign Affairs International Organizations Director Azad
Belfort. Econoff provided detailed information on GMP
principles and shared examples of possible activities in
which potential GMP partners could engage. Belfort was
reminded that the U.S. Navy's Comfort ship visit to Haiti
last fall was one example of a partnership activity. (Note:
USNS Comfort deployed to the Caribbean and Latin America from
June to October 2007 and treated several thousand Haitian
patients on-board. The visit was highly valued by the
Haitian public. End note.)

¶3. (U) Econoff previewed for Belfort specific regional
activities that could reinforce global maritime partnership
and where Haiti could gain value-added expertise (e.g.,
coastal and border security workshops, illegal seaborne
migration and maritime security training). Belfort sought
what he called "tangibles" -- enhanced funding,
skills-building, and a structured
organization.

¶4. (U) Belfort said that he did not understand how the GMP
would provide a tangible benefit to Haiti. Nevertheless, he
said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) could coordinate a
focused meeting on the GMP between Embassy officials and
relevant Haitian agencies, such as the Garde de Cote (Haitian
Coast Guard), the Haitian National Maritime Service (SEMANAH)
-- a Maritime oversight agency -- and Customs and Port
Authorities.

¶5. (U) Belfort said he could not comprehend how GMP could succeed absent a "structure" with a lead country, staffing, official mandate, etc. Embassy informed him that changes in international law and agreements were not prerequisites to agreeing to GMP principles, but that neither were bilateral agreements precluded if two countries considered them important to enhancing maritime security.

¶6. (U) Econoff drew a parallel with the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which Haiti supports and which Belfort understands, in the context of his familiarity with nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Comment:

¶7. (SBU) Embassy assesses that the GOH is in principle receptive to the GMP, but that further Embassy engagement is needed to get Haiti on board. Belfort agreed to organize a future discussion with Embassy officials. Econoff, U.S. Coast Guard Liaison Officer, Embassy Narcotics Affairs Section, USAID and DEA will participate. (Note: U.S. Customs and Border Patrol advisors will provide USAID-funded enforcement training for Haitian government entities overseeing land, sea, and air ports of entry July 14-26. U.S. Coast Guard representatives will provide a Coast Guard-Seaport/Anti-terrorism Seminar -- funded through the Defense Security Cooperation Agency -- for representatives of the Haitian Coast Guard, SEMANAH and Port Authority July 21 to August 1. Linking these types of training to the GMP may help convince the GOH of the program's usefulness. End Note)

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SANDERSON